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MONTANA SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Public Instruction

HARRIET MILLER
Superintendent

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ONE MORE TEACHER ... ONE MORE CLASSROOM ... every two days of the year! This is what increasing enrollments mean to Montana now, State Superintendent Harriet Miller said at a pre-legislative conference at Montana State College. Montana -- now educating nearly half again as many pupils as ten years ago -- can expect 12,000 more by 1963, when enrollments will total 162,000 if trends continue. Pupils, translated into dollars for legislative purposes, mean a state appropriation of $22 million for the Foundation Program for the next two years (compared with $17 million for the current biennium) -- just to finance the state's share of the present Foundation Program.

Education legislation to be proposed by the Department of Public Instruction includes some 30 measures. Watch for them . . . contact your legislators about any which you believe especially important . . . write to the Department of Public Instruction for information on any education bills. Additional education bills may be expected from sources other than the state office; copies of these, too, will be provided on request.

Some of the Department of Public Instruction's proposals:

1. Adjusted increases in the Foundation Program to reduce the inequities now existing for certain schools. (While the Foundation Program is inadequate for nearly all schools, it is even more inadequate for some than for others.)

2. Additional budgeting authorization through increase of the permissive amount beyond the Foundation Program, unless the state can finance an overall increase in the program itself. (Increases on paper, as provided by recent legislative sessions, without state funds to finance the increase, only result in higher local taxes.)

3. Removal of the $6,000 ceiling in the Teachers' Retirement System, to help provide teachers with greater protection against future inflation.

4. Provision for more flexibility in school transportation budgeting, including state reimbursement on emergency transportation. Proposals include a reserve fund for the transportation budget, plus permission to budget for contingency expenditures for transportation obligations not foreseeable at budget time.

5. Permission for qualified non-citizens to teach in the elementary schools under certain limited conditions. (Qualified foreign language teachers, now residents of Montana, are now prevented from teaching until they become U. S. citizens.)

6. Increase in the salaries of county superintendents, with state aid for that office, similar to the provisions in other states.

Watch for the next issue of MONTANA SCHOOLS . . . school legislation introduced will be identified by the House Bill or Senate Bill number, for your reference.

The Biennial Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction Harriet Miller, now in printing, will be distributed the first week of January. Important reading: 49 recommendations for action to benefit education. Administrators, county superintendents and school boards will receive copies automatically . . . if you are not on the list to receive one, you may request one directly from the State Superintendent.

Dates: January 30-31, annual meetings of the Montana Association of School Administrators and Montana High School Association, Butte . . . March 27-30, Superintendent of Public Instruction's Annual Administrators' Conference, Helena.

National Library Week is April 16-22; State chairman is Dr. Paul McCleave, Office of Admissions, Montana State College.

Mrs. Elsie Ekegren becomes Director of Certification in the Department of Public Instruction January 3. Mrs. Ekegren is a former teacher at Havre High School and Montana State University. She succeeds Parks Whitmer who is studying for his doctorate at the University of Denver on an N.D.E.A. graduate fellowship.

Mrs. Mary Jo Janey, Glendive High School teacher and well-known pilot, becomes Supervisor of Aviation Education on January 16, succeeding Mac Johnson who is now on the faculty of Northern Montana College.

Mrs. Valborg Graham of Billings, chairman of the MEA Citizenship Committee, has announced that February will be designated as Citizenship Month.

The Day The Teachers Disappeared, a Dobie Gillis telecast on CBS-TV, is reputed to be well worth watching, if you can get it in your area. Preliminary scheduling was set for January 3 or January 5, 8:30-9:00 p.m., E.S.T. Suggest you check your local station for better information. The plot: a teacher shortage which leaves local parents unconvinced . . to prove that teaching is the easy job they picture it, they take over the classes at Central High, and then . . . !

Home economics curriculum development is the subject of a long-range plan developed at a recent three-day meeting of State Home Economics Education Supervisor Flora Martin, Dr. Mary Lee Hurt of the U. S. Office of Education, Dr. Helen Hollandsworth of Montana State College, Mrs. Vanetta Lewis of Montana State University and five home economics teachers. First step . . . five pilot research studies: teacher time organization, conducted by Bernice Wiley, Great Falls . . . student interest in home economics as a profession, conducted by Shirley Kopitzke, Fort Benton . . . teaching family living in mixed classes of boys and girls, Blanche Ivanish, Malta . . . home economics program organized around basic principles vs. unit organization, Dorothy Williamson, Deer Lodge . . . study of reasons why girls do or do not elect to take home economics, Pat Morgan, Laurel.

TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED for the school at the Montana State Prison. If you have unneeded books, please contact Warden Floyd Powell at Deer Lodge.

Girl Scout Camp staff opportunities are open to teachers for the coming summer. Jobs as camp director, food supervisor, waterfront director, program consultant and unit leader are among those requiring specialized professional background. Details from: Miss Fanchon Hamilton, Recruitment and Referral Advisor, Girl Scouts of the USA, 830 Third Avenue, New York 22, New York.

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